

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An end termination for a tension leg of non-metallic material, the tension leg being constructed of a number of strands that constitute the load carrying elements of the tension leg, the strands being twisted about the longitudinal axis of the tension leg by a predetermined laying length, each of the strands being constructed of a plurality of rods of composite material having embedded strength fibers, the rods being twisted about each other, and the strands terminate near a receiving body having connecting means and a number of through-going apertures enclosing the respective strands, wherein each strand is passed through a respective aperture in the receiving body without being fixed therein, each strand has a free end terminating some distance above the receiving body, and the free end of each strand is fixed to and enclosed by a terminating sleeve having a diameter larger than a corresponding aperture in the receiving body, the terminating sleeve loosely resting on or abutting the receiving body.
2. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to claim 1, wherein the terminating sleeve is internally tapered in a direction towards the receiving body.
3. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a guiding sleeve is a separate element from the receiving body and is arranged within each aperture of the receiving body.

4. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to claim 3, wherein the guiding sleeve is shorter than the length of the aperture of the receiving body.

5. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to claim 4, wherein the guiding sleeve is arranged within the aperture close to the entrance of the strands into the receiving body.

6. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to 1, wherein each aperture through the receiving body terminates in a concentric recess for receipt of and to act as a guide and seat for the terminating sleeve.

7. (Previously Presented) The end termination means according to claim 6, wherein each recess has a depth that is longer than the distance that a terminating sleeve is able to move out of the receiving body.

8. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to 1, wherein the end termination comprises an embracing element that is spaced apart from the receiving body and keeps the strands together, and between the embracing element and the receiving body the strands extend without radial restriction and in a substantially natural direction towards and into the apertures of the receiving body.

9. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to claim 8, wherein the receiving body acts as a gathering element for the strands between the embracing element and the terminating sleeve.

10. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to 1, wherein the apertures of the receiving body are inclined relative to the longitudinal axis of the tension leg and the inclination corresponds to the natural direction of the strands between the embracing element and the terminating sleeves.

11. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to 1, further comprising an external rigid sleeve fixed at one end thereof to the receiving body and at an opposite end thereof to the embracing element.

12. (Previously Presented) The end termination according to 1, wherein the receiving body has at least one annular groove on an external surface thereof for engagement with at least one first annular rib on a connecting part that is connected to a connecting point.

13. (Previously Presented) A coupling for use between an end termination and a connecting point according to claim 12, wherein the connecting point has at least one external annular groove for engagement with at least one second annular rib arranged on the connecting part

a distance apart from the at least one first rib, and the connecting part is radially fixed by an upper and lower embracing connecting part.

14. (Currently Amended) A coupling for use between an end termination and a connecting point according to claim 13, wherein an upper and lower ~~radially~~-outer surface on the connecting part has an upward directed conical form and an upper and lower ~~radially~~-inner surface on the respective embracing connecting parts has a complementary conical form.

15. (Previously Presented) A coupling according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the connecting parts comprise respective pin screws for temporary fixation of the connecting parts to the connecting point and the receiving body, respectively.

16. (Previously Presented) A tension leg, comprising:

a plurality of strands of composite material that constitute the load carrying elements of the tension leg, said strands being twisted about the longitudinal axis of the tension leg by a predetermined laying length, each of said strands being constructed of a plurality of rods of composite material having strength fibers embedded therein, said rods being twisted about each other;

a receiving body, each of said strands terminating near said receiving body, said receiving body including a connector having and a plurality of through-going apertures enclosing the respective strands, each of said strands being passed through a respective aperture in the receiving

body without being fixed therein, each strand having a free end terminating some distance above the receiving body; and

 a terminating sleeve, said terminating sleeve having a diameter larger than a corresponding aperture in the receiving body, the free end of each strand being fixed to and enclosed by said terminating sleeve, said terminating sleeve loosely resting on or abutting the receiving body.